

*S. rufus* is principally a Surrey insect, known to me from no less than eight localities in the county: Richmond Park, Mickleham, Shirley, Croydon, Guildford, Leatherhead, Epsom and Wisley Common. Elsewhere it is recorded from Hurst Green, E. Sussex; Enfield and Hendon, Middx.; Watford, Herts.; and Windsor, Berks. For its two distinct types of habitat see Owen, 1986, *Ent. Rec.* **98**: 78-9; Allen, *ibid.* 211-2— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Rheumaptera hastata* ssp. *hastata* Linn. (Lep.: Geometridae): A welcome return in Herefordshire.**

On the 6th September 1986, I found a spinning in birch leaves in Haugh Wood, Woolhope. Constructed into a neat pyramid by three leaves, the leaves were fenestrated from within by a dark grey geometrid larva. I was almost certain that this could only be *Rheumaptera hastata* Linn., a species long since disappeared from the county. The attractive Argent and Sable duly emerged the following spring on 22.5.1987. The species is recorded from this site up to 1968, after which it has mysteriously disappeared for eighteen years.

I visited Queens Wood, Kempley on 28.5.1987 and was delighted to see two moths flying along the woodland rides in morning sunshine, a new site to me for this species. Several spinnings in birch containing larvae were spotted later the same year in August and September. On 7.6.1987 a single moth was seen flying erratically over mixed coppice with birch at Eastnor, while the final irony was to see one sitting on my own front door on 5.6.1987.

Curiously I have failed to see moths or larvae in 1988 in any of the localities mentioned. I have no data for the present status for ssp. *hastata* in England except a feeling that it has drastically declined or disappeared from many of its old sites. The preferred larval feeding place in the Herefordshire sites have been smaller regenerative or younger coppice birch rather than taller trees. It is to be hoped that the new resurgent interest in coppice management may see an improvement in the status of this attractive moth.— Dr M.W. HARPER, Cherry Orchard, Bullen, Ledbury, Hereford.

**The Red Admiral (*Vanessa atalanta* L. — Lep.: Nymphalidae) attracted to a lighted window.**

The evening of 26th July 1989 was warm and sticky, with a high level of entomological activity. At around midnight I was observing moths attracted to my lighted kitchen window, when an insect struck the window quite hard — three times. On opening the door to investigate, a Red Admiral flew in, across the kitchen and into the lounge, where it rested on a door, wings open.

This species has been noted at light before, but the usual explanation